



Welcome to the EnviroDaq fortnightly newsletter focusing on companies in the UK's growing environmental goods and services (EGS) sector.

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EnviroDaq

The EnviroDaq Index, the first index for UK-listed environmental technology companies, has grown by 40% over the last 12 months against the FTSE 100's growth of 23%.

The EnviroDaq is an index of UK listed companies which generate at least 60% of their market value from providing environmentally-focused goods and services. This includes companies in the following sectors: renewable energy; energy efficiency equipment; renewable materials; waste management; water and waste water treatment; air pollution control equipment; environmental monitoring and instrumentation; cleaner technology processes.

Recent research carried out by EnviroDaq indicates that companies in the environmental goods and services sector now account for 2.5% of the AIM market. This is second only to the Speciality Finance sector in terms of market representation.

The EnviroDaq now has 72 members; all of whom are listed in the UK stock market, and over 95% are listed on the AIM market.

EnviroDaq stats (as from today)

EnviroDaq Index Current Value: 152.75

EnviroDaq Index Yesterday Close: 153.28

EnviroDaq Index Movement Today: -0.35%

EnviroDaq Index Movement Last 7 Days: -3.21%

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Opinion

Road to Energy Saving Improvements

Under the new Energy End Use & Energy Services directive, within nine months each European country has to publish a plan detailing how it will deliver energy saving improvements at an annual rate 1% higher than achieved to date...

It is obvious from recent Government policy papers on climate change, and following the energy review, that Britain intends to approach this target using predominantly two public policy weapons.

The first has been to tighten up standards for new homes, under the Building Regulations. These have been changed twice since 2000 - although they are still less ambitious than in comparable Nordic climates - and should do so again at the end of the decade. There is growing evidence about how poorly compliance with these standards is policed. There is also a very slow replacement rate of existing housing, which is where most of the savings will need to be made.

The sole game in town is the Energy Efficiency Commitment, which is paid for entirely by the six energy companies serving the residential sector. It is now halfway through its second triennial phase, having confounded all the pessimists by delivering 40% more energy (and carbon) savings than anticipated in its first phase.

The government is currently consulting as to how the third phase, beginning April 2008, should operate. Because the present rules require the energy companies to deliver savings in gigawatts, each company seeks to deliver at minimum cost to itself. The calculations are the same for each. Even though it uniquely carries a 30% "penalty" for producing comfort rather than energy saving, insulation (more specifically, cavity wall insulation is the favoured option. Over 80% of expenditure is devoted to it. And because fuel bills grow higher by the month, it is not proving difficult to persuade householders to have it installed. So much so, that... [\[Read More\]](#)

Andrew Warren
Director, Association for the Conservation of Energy

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News in Brief

North Hoyle and Scroby Sands offshore wind farms are reported to have produced enough energy to power almost 80,000 homes and saved more than 250,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks welcomed the progress of the two wind farms and commented, "It was suggested earlier this week that the UK has the potential to become the Saudi Arabia of offshore wind energy. There are hurdles to be overcome before we achieve that status but the resource is there and we must harness it."

A study has warned that floods, forest fires, and droughts are likely to become more commonplace and more severe if the increases in global warming align to what has been widely predicted by scientists. The study examined what could happen if global average temperatures rise by 3 °C or more over the next 200 years. With a 2 °C rise in average temperatures, the risk of significant deforestation in the northern forests of

Eurasia, eastern China, Canada, and the tropical rainforests of central America and the Amazon increase by almost a third. The results also suggest that vegetation may cease to be a net absorber of CO₂, and instead become a net producer of greenhouse gases, exacerbating the problem further.

Defra is pushing for local authorities to apply the powers available to them under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, 2005. They argue that the use of fixed penalties should form part of a local fly-tipping strategy to address waste crime, by increasing awareness and education, as well as enforcement.

Policy News: The European Parliament has urged the European Commission to take action against those states which have not complied with energy efficiency directives. A study has found that if all member states complied with existing energy-saving legislation, the EU would be halfway to reaching its target of 20% reduction in energy use by 2020. The existing legislation includes directives to reduce energy consumption in buildings, the promotion of combined heat and electricity generation, and more energy-efficient household products.

Meanwhile, France's Environment Ministry has announced that from the 15th November the country is to start collecting and treating waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). This comes fifteen months after the deadline for establishing collection points and treatment systems under the WEEE directive. Other large EU countries that have yet to implement the directive include Italy, Poland and the UK.

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EnviroDaq Company News

Azure Dynamics Corporation, the developer of hybrid electric and electric powertrains for commercial and military vehicles, has announced that it has signed a supply agreement for the production of hybrid shuttle buses with StarTrans. [\[Read More\]](#)

Oxonica plc, the international nanomaterials group, has reached an agreement with Petrol Ofisi A.S., the leading national oil company in Turkey. Under the agreement, Oxonica is to supply its Envirox™ fuel borne nanocatalyst, for use in diesel fuel across Petrol Ofisi's nationwide distribution network. [\[Read More\]](#)

Augean plc, the UK-based hazardous waste company, has announced that it has created Terramundo, a joint venture company with Belgium based DEC NV. DEC NV will operate a soil treatment centre at Augean's Port Clarence landfill site. [\[Read More\]](#)

Oxford Catalysts Group plc, the catalyst innovator for clean fuels, has announced that it has been awarded approximately £118,000 from the Carbon Trust. This will be used to assist in the finance of a two year project to develop reforming catalysts for fuel cells. [\[Read More\]](#)

Econergy International, the clean energy and carbon developer, has announced that it has entered into an agreement with HydroPartners LLC to invest in two hydroelectric development projects in the Brazilian State of Minas Gerais. [\[Read More\]](#)

For all the EnviroDaq company news visit www.EnviroDaq.com and view the news archive

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EnviroDaq Company Case Studies

The following case studies of companies in the EnviroDaq index were penned by the companies themselves and have not been edited by the EnviroDaq editor. We therefore accept no liability for the accuracy of the information contained within them and they should not be used as a prospectus for investment purposes.

Symphony Plastic Technologies plc

Business Overview

Symphony Plastic Technologies plc specialises in marketing a wide range of plastic products and technologies and operates worldwide.

In particular, the company is a world leader in the development and marketing of totally degradable plastics and sells both finished plastic products and pro-degradant additives through a growing network of international agents and distributors. The company also markets in some countries a comprehensive range of traditional, non-degradable, flexible plastic products.

Technology

Symphony is world leader in totally degradable additives which are sold under the d2w brand and trademark. Through the addition of a proprietary additive, this oxo-degradable technology causes traditional plastics to degrade safely to water, carbon dioxide and a small amount of biomass.

Market

All flexible plastics and many semi rigid plastics are capable of being rendered degradable. The environmental issues relating to waste plastics is a world wide problem. Symphony currently operates in over 40 countries.

Competition

There are few direct, international, competitors. EPI of Canada are competitors in some areas.

Future Prospects

We are beginning to see our technology and trademark being used by valuable new customers in innovative applications across the world.

Recent widely publicised statements by market leading retailers in the UK, and USA, together with the continuing legislative intent to deal with the problems of plastic waste, are adding to the increasing motivation of suppliers and manufacturers to take active steps towards adopting more environmentally friendly plastics.

The momentum generated by this activity can only be positive and, with that in mind, we intend to maintain the pace and intensity of our efforts.

Board and Management

There are presently four Executive Directors - two have extensive expertise in the plastics industry. The other two Directors are the Finance Director and a Director with extensive international commercial and marketing experience.

Nirj Deva, DL, FRSA, MEP - Non-Executive Director and Acting Chair

Michael Laurier - Chief Executive

Allan Blacher - Chief Operating Officer

Ian Bristow, FCCA - Finance Director (and Company Secretary)

Keith L Frener - Operations Director

Contact

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Further information on Symphony can be found at www.symphonyplastics.com and www.degradable.net.

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Acta

Introduction

Acta is manufacturer and developer of non-precious metal catalysts for the renewable market. These catalysts will offer high performance, low cost solutions to fuel cell developers and will also allow the use for the first time of practical fuels such as bioethanol instead of toxic methanol or hydrogen.

Acta listed on AIM in October 2005, raising £8m.

Unique Selling Point

Platinum free catalysts with unique performance, even at room temperature. Features include:

- High performance - at least as good as platinum
- Low cost - made from iron, cobalt and nickel which are 1% the cost of platinum
- New fuels - catalysts work with ethanol, glycerol and other hydrocarbons
- No fuel crossover effect and no carbon monoxide poisoning

In addition the manufacturing process is robust and scaleable. This means that Acta's catalysts offer excellent performance and can be scaled up to meet the needs of industry.

Competition

There is no direct competition.

Financial Performance

Pre-revenue, cash burn of around €5m per annum.

Future Prospects

Huge potential end markets, not only in fuel cells but also in other renewable applications. Margins will be protected by cost of platinum as competition and the operational gearing is very high.

The era of overwhelming reliance on fossil fuels is ending and the success of the renewable energy market is essential for continuing economic prosperity and environmental health. Fuel cells have a key role to play in this, but only if they can be commercialised at economically acceptable costs. Acta's unique catalyst chemistry answers this pressing need.

Board and Management

Paolo Bert - Chief Executive
Toby Woolrych - Chief Operating Officer
Paul Barritt - Chief Financial Officer

Contact

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Acta

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Contact EnviroDaq

Envirodaq is an initiative of The UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development (UK CEED), an independent, entrepreneurial research foundation. Please get in touch if you wish to give feedback on our newsletter or submit relevant news or case studies. For more information on EnviroDaq visit www.EnviroDaq.com. For more information on EnviroDaq 50 contact me as below.

EnviroDaq, a newly launched index and newsletter, is now looking for support, sponsorship or advertising. If this is of interest to your organisation then please feel free to contact us.

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About EnviroDaq

EnviroDaq has been developed by the [UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development \(UK CEED\)](#), a charitable foundation, and the Centre for Sustainable Engineering (CSEng), a not-for-profit company. The aim is for the index to become an authoritative benchmark for performance in the environmental industries and to attract recognition for, and investment activity in the sector. [Top](#)

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